

*Like a Sparrow
Through
the Heart*



Aggy Bird

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Talon the griffin is broken-hearted - so, can you really blame him for not-quite-accidentally trying to kill a guy? Flit the sparrow sure can. Now the sparrow has taken over Talon's life, and Talon hates it. But maybe things will turn out all right. If only Flit would stop decorating the place.

Length: epic (~57,000 words) Complete

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Like a Sparrow Through the Heart Details

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Qi says

It's SO PUNNY! *dies*

Talon *wanted* to refuse to have dinner with Flit every night, but he wasn't about to turn down a plate of buffalo wings. (Flying buffalo was a rare enough delicacy.)

If you, unlike me, do not like puns, don't despair! There's something here for everyone.

...though there's a rather large part of me that is screaming, "OH FUCK NO" when Flit decides, after a night of reflecting on Talon telling him that it fucking makes sense why his ex would beat him, that he would stay if Talon asked. Because Talon spent the entire first half of the story beating him up too.

...which I thought was okay because bird-people have different social norms and bodies and they heal faster or some shit so it's totes normal to beat each other up! Right?

...well, no. But Talon's *reformed*!

THAT ASIDE (and I guess I'm willing to put it aside because this is a fine example of crack fic and I've missed this; mental editing does *wonders*) this was a fun read. Flit is adorable. Talon is an idiot. There are puns.

Bookwatcher says

Why you should read this FREE ebook?

1) **Flit, the sparrow.** He is one of the main character... you will love him! So sweet and delicate! A great character!

2) **Talon, the griffin.** Ok, no good words to him. I hate him, his violence and his cruelty... . So how can he be the another main character of this M/M paranormal-romance? Simple: Flit will put all his soul in the mission of making Talon a better person, no wait shifter, no I must say a better Griffin... well whatever... Talon is a big jerk, whatever way you want to classify him.

3) **The humor.** One of the best qualities of this story is the no stop laughing... Flit, a little annoying and overactive sparrow, living with a huge and violent griffin is something you should read. Hilarious! Their discussions, and the quick tongue both have worth your reading.

4) **Talking about tongue...** don't expect wild and long sex right away. I can't spoil telling why or how, but if you are patient you will read very good sex scenes. It's not a sex without plot type of book, and in my view

that's a very good thing, don't you thing too?

5) Finally the last motive to my 5 stars, and my last tease about this story: the world where they live. My congratulations to this incredible writer! The theme of this book, avian shifters, are so rare to find, and I love how the writer was able to create a perfect world to develop the plot. Very good, and in my view perfect!

BTW... a quick 6 motive... no cloaca... sorry, I'm a biologist, the first thing I thought reading this plot was: "*crap, avians shifters could have cloaca!*"

Cloaca

*The common cavity at the end of the digestive tract for the release of both excretory and genital products in vertebrates (except most mammals) and certain invertebrates. Specifically, the cloaca is present in **birds**, reptiles, amphibians, most fish, and monotremes.*

so... calm down... no cloaca... good thing, don't you agree?

5 stars

Lucy says

This book was supposed to be a filler in between some angsty books, something light and quick. It turns out, this very odd book about bird shifters, is sarcastic, violent and just really funny. Talon, a griffin, is rough and rude. Flit, the sparrow Talon nearly kills, is an advice columnist and therapist, with issues of his own. When Talon has to take Flit in after the near-fatal accident, they clash, argue and get under each other's feathers. It's a mess and it was so fun to read. The prequel, with Zip and Tawney, is sweeter and gives a hint as to why Talon is just so ornery.

Cindi says

[Flit went from one abusive relationship to a

Arthur says

One of my favorite stories. Not only because of the nice story and characters, but also because it's free (yeah, I'm cheap! :-)

The story itself is not that new but the execution is done well. All characters are bird shifters. the strong

alpha male-type Talon and the smart-ass Flit. Their slowly developed relationship is nice. The scene where they finally tell each other their feelings is beautifully romantic.

Recommended.

M'rella says

[, especially considering his previous relationship (hide spoiler)]

Deeze says

I LOVED THIS FIC.

OK now that's out of the way I can try to say why.

This was in my opinion a brilliantly written cute funny romantic slightly angsty read. All my favourite requirements.

I worried at times that I wouldn't be able to overlook Talons violence, but its amazing how much the stupid birdbrain grew on me.

Flit was a simple caring wonderful funny little bird that I wanted to hug even though he proved he could take care of himself.

I wanted to add so many quotes but I realized I'd end up quoting most of the book. The clever and at times groan worthy way the author mixed well known sayings into suitable bird talk was highly entertaining.

I guess the romance came more towards the end, but the build up to it was extremely satisfying.

Recommended to all who are looking for fun and romance.

Heller says

3.5

I really enjoyed this clever take on bird shifters. Some neat world-building going on here. I liked Talon and Flit quite a bit but Talon's constant abusive behaviour got to be a bit trying after a while so it wasn't as high of a rating as I thought I was going to end up giving it.

Still, some wonderfully well drawn characters with fun dialogue and a surprisingly hot sex scene. I'm looking forward to Roc and Robin's story.

ttg says

3.5-4 stars. Very creative m/m fantasy romance about bird shifters who live in the clouds, have jobs, and fly around. (Also, heads-up, this novel is **free** to download.)

This story focuses on Talon, an angry cop griffon shifter who injures Flit, a sparrow shifter who is an advice columnist. Talon is forced to take care of Flit as he recovers, and Flit realizes that Talon is one big case of troubles that needs fixing (and he's just the bird to do it, whether Talon wants it or not.) As they squabble over decorating Talon's apartment or avoiding vengeful raptors, both men grow closer, even if they so fiercely don't want to realize it.

First of all, this novel is very well-written. It's filled with inspired bird-related puns that continually add to the world the author has built. For the most part, the characters are very likeable, and the dialogue was great.

The main thing that squicked me was Talon's penchant for physical abuse, which pretty much runs throughout the novel. After he hears about Flit's past with abusive relationships, he becomes more cognizant of his own actions, but even up to near the end, he's still bringing his fist in the air, and Flit is still cringing even as he's pushing Talon. "Things get better" for the characters, so yay, but on the other hand, I found the story progression troubling--tenacious abuse survivor working on a relationship with someone who often smacks him around by cooking for him, cleaning, taking care of him, and putting up with abuse until he can fix him. I'm glad for this story's case that things work out, but I'm pretty sure Flit would have gotten a DTMFA message if he wrote to advice columnist Dan Savage about his relationship.

That being said, it's well-written, clever, very readable, and has great characterization. I hear there is a sequel in the making with some of the side characters which I'm interested in checking out. Especially since Stone seems to have his anger way more in check.

Ami says

OMG, I LOVE THIS STORY!! Talon is a brute, insensitive idiot bastard -- who needs to have his head smacked couple of times. But when is protecting *his* Flit, he goes all out. And when he falls, he falls hard. While Flit, he is just such a cute annoying sparrow, with a heart of gold -- I mean, with the "abuse" he gets from Talon, he *STILL* wants to find the griffin a boyfriend?! Awwwww. This story makes me laugh and annoyed (with Talon) and frustrated (with the two of them) and want to protect (Flit) and HOT (because their sex IS hot) and choked up (when they get separated) and all smiley when they finally figure it out.

PLUS IT'S FREE!! It deserves all the 5 stars!

Emanuela ~plastic duck~ says

The book gets 5 stars out of the sheer joy it gave me.

It's well written and the writing gets better chapter after chapter. It's as if the author is able to understand the

characters better as the story progresses, adding a few layers of complexity.

The reference to birds is pretty clever and it had me laugh out loud a few times (birdbarians is my favorite). I think the quality/price rate can't be beaten because the book is free. This is one of the rare times I decide to round up my rating, because the book is not perfect, I had a few problems with the relationship between Talon, the big, aggressive griffin, and Flit, the small sparrow.

In the book we learn that Flit comes from an abusive relationship. His meeting with Talon begins with a violent act and to remedy the fact that Flit got his arm broken as a consequence, Talon brings him home and gives Flit one of his flying feathers as retribution until Flit's healed. While Flit lives with Talon, he decides to help the griffin meet someone and mend his broken heart. Talon treats Flit badly at the beginning and it troubles me that Flit slowly falls for someone like Talon, who is aggressive, both verbally and physically. Even if Talon is well meaning and he is probably unable to express his feelings in a civilized way, I'm still worried about Flit, because in the end he develops a relationship which is not exactly healthy and it mirrors his previous one.

Now, maybe I am wanting too much for a story that is so funny and sweet but I wish Talon mended his ways more clearly at the end of the book.

Highly recommended!

Don Bradshaw says

This book was a hoot. Funny, happy and full of gay stereotypes. The big hulking Talon almost kills the small nester Flit. Talon is obliged to allow Flit stay at his home and surrender one of his flight feathers until Flit is healed. Flit moves in and all hell breaks loose. Suspend reality and just sit back and chuckle.

Breann says

Started cute enough. Full of banter, hot sex and punny bird puns.

But Talon calling Flit a 'little bitch' (all the time) and smacking him around puts him right on my most hated heroes list. (not that I have one, but if I did...) Talon was a bastard. Dude had zero redeeming qualities.

I have no idea what Flit and Talon saw in each other.

Aniytlia says

Cute, if you enjoy puns you'll probably like this quite a bit, and it's free so what the hell? I feel rather apathetic toward it to be honest. I was excited about the premise, two hot boys who could shift into birds and were hell-bent after each other. The two protagonists were rather endearing, even the 'grumpy' - otherwise known as total bitch - top of the couple. I liked the progression of the story, but I didn't find it nearly as hilarious as some others, but as I said, if you enjoy puns and ridiculous humor, it just might be for you. The ending was cute, even though at that point I found myself hating both characters.

WARNING, SPOILERS

I just couldn't forgive Talon for what he said during their argument. Domestic violence is not something to take lightly, and the fact that he would even raise a hand against someone he supposedly 'loves' disturbs me greatly. The fact that Flit took him back after Talon said he 'deserved to be beaten' left me shocked and appalled. I was sick to my stomach after he had said that and for me, that destroyed the novel. No matter how mushy they may be in bed, when all Talon is thinking of is shutting Flit up and satisfying his carnal needs, and then refuses to talk to him about the status of their relationship, I can't help but feel that Flit is getting involved with the same sort of sleazeball that that violently abused him before.

Some people may like that sort of relationship, or read deeper thinking, 'oh, but Talon really does love him, didn't you see how sad he was at the end?', I don't give a shit. He insults the person he loves, slaps him around, and whenever he gets angry he just spouts off terrible, terrible things.

Sorry, it just wasn't my cup of tea.

Emma Sea says

I'm glad I finally persevered with that. I gave up twice because the humour of the early chapters isn't to my taste, but once I pushed past chapter 5 I did really enjoy the MCs.
